

Date submitted (Eastern Standard Time): 11/27/2020 4:56:17 PM

First name: Kate

Last name: Cunningham

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am an outdoor enthusiast and am familiar with the maintenance needs on many of our public lands. Deferred maintenance is a critical issue affecting recreational use across the Daniel Boone National Forest in my home state of Kentucky. In the past, I have helped to repair eroded trails and close or rehabilitate severely impacted campsites. Several of the items for which the Forest Service has requested funding are great-- such as access to roads to recreational areas, trail work, and campground rehabilitation at Bee Rock and Castlerock campgrounds.

Some funding proposals are not appropriate for GAOA funding, however:

1) The Forest Service is requesting maintenance for logging roads. In the Jellico area, USFS says there is a need to combine road repairs directly with cutting timber! USFS also proposes other vaguely described road repairs on the Stearns District, which may just be more logging road repairs. The Forest Service does not identify any specific locations. None of these road repairs were mentioned at the Jellico Integrated Restoration Management Strategy public meeting held October 10, 2020.

Are these road repairs being proposed to facilitate a possible plan of 2,000 acres of logging in the Jellicos?

2) Several requested "items" are just funds for studies which include, but are not limited to, recreational planning processes in the Red River Gorge. The GAOA funds should not be used to fund "studies" where there is so much on the ground work already identified and needing to be done.

3) Also deferred maintenance on offices shouldn't be covered under the GAOA. These offices shouldn't be allowed to deteriorate but the GAOA is ostensibly about people's use of outdoor spaces.